

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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42

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-05 AID-05 IGA-01

SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 IO-10 /088 W

----- 057961

R 051055Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1402

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ROME 8021

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IT

SUBJECT: WHEAT FLEA INFESTATION IN SICILY

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE

FROM AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

1. CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY BEING GIVEN TO WHEAT FLEA (AELIA ROSTRATA) INFESTATION IN SICILY, WHICH MOST SERIOUS IN PALERMO AND CALTANISSETTA PROVINCES, ALTHOUGH SEEN TO A LESSER EXTENT ELSEWHERE IN ITALY. ITALIAN AUTHORITIES TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GET FRENCH EXPERT JAN VAEGELE FROM ANTIBES RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO ASSESS SITUATION. FOUR HELICOPTERS FOR SPRAYING HAVE BEEN FURNISHED FOR TIME BEING BY AGMIN, BUT REAL SOLUTION IS INTRODUCTION OF FLEA'S NATURAL ENEMIES OVER LONG TERM.

2. COMBINING REPORTS FROM AMCONSULS PALERMO AND MILAN WITH ROME INFORMATION, AGATTACHE FINDS ACTUAL CROP DAMAGE DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE, BUT PROBABLY NOT MAJOR. IN SICILY, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 40 PERCENT ITALIAN DURUM CROP, ONE EXPERT FORESEES 15-20 PERCENT CROP LOSS, DUE PERHAPS MORE TO DRY WEATHER, HOWEVER, THAN TO FLEAS. OTHER ESTIMATES ARE FOR MUCH
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LESS LOSS BECAUSE HEAVY INFESTATION'S APPEARED NEAR HARVEST TIME, THEREBY LIMITING KERNEL LOSS.

3. NOTE: PEST FIRST RECENTLY SEEN IN SICILY LAST GROWING
SEASON, BUT IN SMALLER AREA. LAST HEAVY INFESTATION OCCURRED
IN 1931-32. BUG IS COMMON IN NORTH AFRICA AND EVERY 7 TO 10
YEARS CAUSES SEVERE DAMAGE, PARTICULARLY MOROCCO..VOLPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 05 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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